

California Poultry Report



Frequency: Monthly
Released: April 29, 1999

(USPS 598-310)
VOL. 20 NO. 4



CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Layer & Egg Production	1 & 3
Chick Hatch and Eggs in Incubators	2
Poultry and Egg Prices	3
Turkey Poult Hatched and Placed	3
Cold Storage Holdings	4

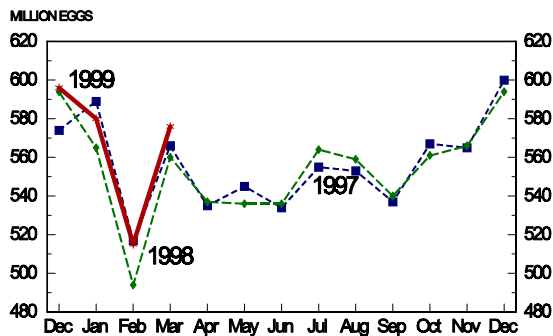
CALIFORNIA EGG PRODUCTION

California's egg production during March totaled 576 million, 61.0 million more than last month and 16.0 million more than last March. Total number of layers during the month averaged 26.1 million, 3 percent above March 1998. Eggs per 100 layers during the month were 2,205 compared to 1,963 last month and 2,215 in March 1998.

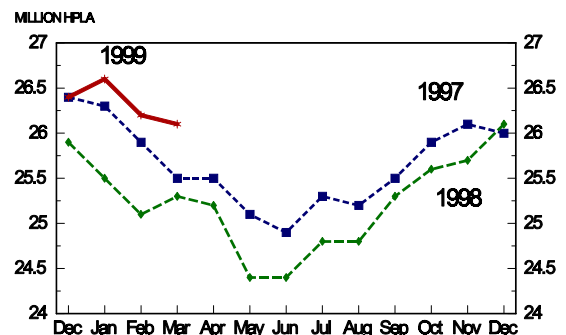
U.S. MARCH EGG PRODUCTION UP 3 PERCENT

U.S. egg production totaled 7.05 billion during March 1999, up 3 percent from the 6.87 billion produced in 1998. Production included 5.94 billion table eggs and 1.11 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.04 billion were broiler-type and 70.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during March 1999 averaged 323 million, up 3 percent from the total average number of layers during March 1998. March egg production per 100 layers was 2,183 eggs, down slightly from 2,187 eggs in March 1998.

EGG PRODUCTION, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER, 1997-1999



AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER, 1997-1999



LAYER NUMBERS AND EGG PRODUCTION DURING MARCH, FORCED MOLTING AS OF APRIL 1

State	Average Number of Layers on Hand		Eggs Per 100 Layers		Total Egg Production		Layers Being Molted		Layers With Molt Completed	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	Thousands	Thousands	Number	Number	Millions	Millions	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Alabama	10,939	10,886	1,975	1,984	216	216	1.0	0.5	10.5	13.0
Arkansas	15,084	15,281	1,903	1,924	287	294	3.0	2.5	10.0	9.5
California	25,280	26,122	2,215	2,205	560	576	3.5	5.0	37.0	37.5
Georgia	21,199	21,226	2,142	2,129	454	452	1.0	2.5	16.5	17.0
Indiana	21,800	22,148	2,239	2,230	488	494	0.5	2.5	25.0	31.0
Iowa	23,038	24,665	2,192	2,287	505	564	3.5	4.5	38.0	27.5
North Carolina	11,210	11,633	1,945	1,951	218	227	1.0	0.5	12.0	8.5
Ohio	28,135	30,805	2,278	2,204	641	679	0.5	1.5	12.0	15.0
Pennsylvania	22,248	22,790	2,319	2,326	516	530	3.5	4.0	17.0	17.5
Texas	17,374	17,483	2,187	2,162	380	378	4.0	0.5	23.0	17.5
United States	314,101	323,027	2,187	2,183	6,869	7,052	2.2	2.8	22.1	21.2

U.S. BROILER HATCH UP 3 PERCENT

The March 1999 hatch of broiler-type chicks, at 755 million, was up 3 percent from March of the previous year. On April 1, eggs in incubators totaled 626 million, up 3 percent from a year earlier.

Leading breeders placed 7.20 million broiler-type pullet chicks for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 1999. This was up 6 percent from March 1998.

BROILER-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

State	1998	1999	1999/1998
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Alabama	93,160	97,138	104
Arkansas	108,407	112,380	104
Delaware	16,865	16,908	100
Florida	10,016	10,587	106
Georgia	107,784	114,245	106
Maryland	32,067	31,915	100
Mississippi	64,959	65,866	101
North Carolina	64,196	64,375	100
Pennsylvania	13,227	13,525	102
South Carolina	15,069	16,617	110
Texas	47,026	49,605	105
Virginia	24,366	24,826	102
California, Tennessee & West Virginia	39,648	41,831	106
Other States ^{1/}	93,526	95,361	102
UNITED STATES	730,316	755,179	103

^{1/} Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

U.S. EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED UP 7 PERCENT

Egg-type chicks hatched during March totaled 41.3 million, up 2 percent from March 1998. Eggs in incubators totaled 38.0 million on April 1, 1999, up 12 percent from a year ago.

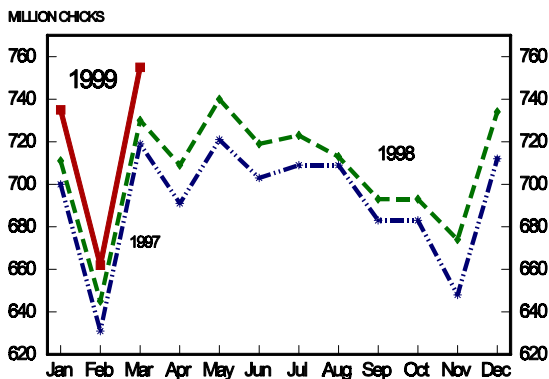
Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks for future hatchery supply flocks** by leading breeders totaled 257 thousand during March 1999. This was up 14 percent from March 1998.

EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, MARCH

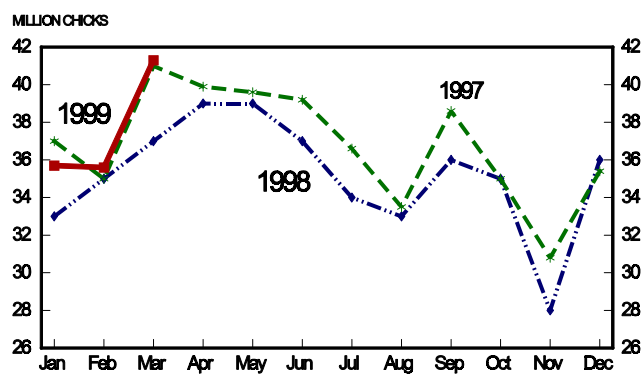
State	1998	1999	1999/1998
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Arkansas	882	749	85
Florida	1,004	1,067	106
Georgia	2,283	1,821	80
Indiana	7,303	7,531	103
Iowa	5,773	5,542	96
Kansas	306	166	54
Minnesota	1,715	2,213	129
Missouri	381	381	100
Pennsylvania	5,647	6,110	108
Other States ^{1/}	15,296	15,745	103
UNITED STATES	40,590	41,325	102

^{1/} Not published separately to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

BROILER CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1997-1999



EGG-TYPE CHICKS HATCHED, UNITED STATES JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER, 1997-1999



EGGS IN INCUBATORS, APRIL 1

Geographic Division	Broiler-Type			Egg-Type		
	1998	1999	1999/1998	1998	1999	1999/1998
	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
North Atlantic	12,112	12,005	99	5,461	6,945	127
East North Central	7,880	8,134	103	9,180	9,586	104
West North Central	22,689	22,199	98	6,267	7,336	117
South Atlantic	230,885	240,300	104	4,733	4,724	100
South Central	309,239	318,094	103	4,055	3,705	91
West	23,863	25,287	106	4,248	5,674	134
UNITED STATES	606,668	626,019	103	33,944	37,970	112

POULTRY AND EGG PRICES

The average March prices received by California producers, when compared to February average prices, decreased 1.5 cents per pound for broilers. Prices for live turkeys remain constant. Prices for market eggs increased 2.1 cents per dozen.

Nationally, the March average prices received by producers decreased less than one cent per pound for broilers, but increased 1.3 cents per pound for turkeys. Prices for market eggs increased three cents per dozen.

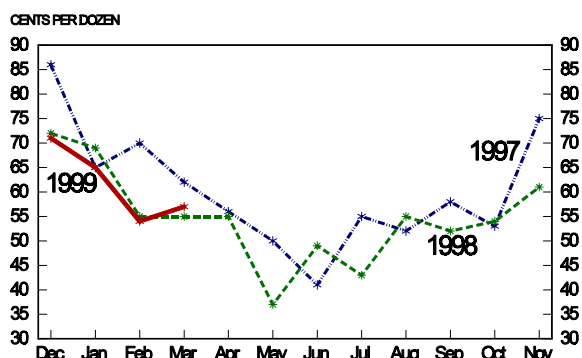
**POULTRY AND EGG
AVERAGE PRICES RECEIVED BY PRODUCERS 1/**

Commodity	Unit	Mar. 15, 1998	Feb. 15, 1999	Mar. 15, 1999
		Cents		
CALIFORNIA				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	36.0	39.5	38.0
Market Eggs <u>2/</u>	Doz.	55.0	54.4	56.5
Turkeys	Lb.	37.0	44.0	44.0
UNITED STATES				
Chickens-Broilers	Lb.	35.2	36.6	35.8
Market Eggs <u>2/</u>	Doz.	57.1	50.1	53.1
Turkeys	Lb.	34.6	35.7	37.0

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by producers. They are averages for all grades, classes and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole.

2/ Average for market (table) eggs including eggs sold retail by producers.

**MARKET EGG PRICES, CALIFORNIA
DECEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER, 1997-1999**



U.S. TURKEY HATCHERY PRODUCTION

Turkey eggs in incubators on April 1, 1999 in the United States totaled 34.1 million, up 2 percent from April 1 a year ago. Eggs in incubators were up 4 percent from the March 1 total of 32.8 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: East North Central, up 5 percent; West North Central, up 14 percent; North and South Atlantic, down 11 percent; South Central, unchanged; West, up 7 percent.

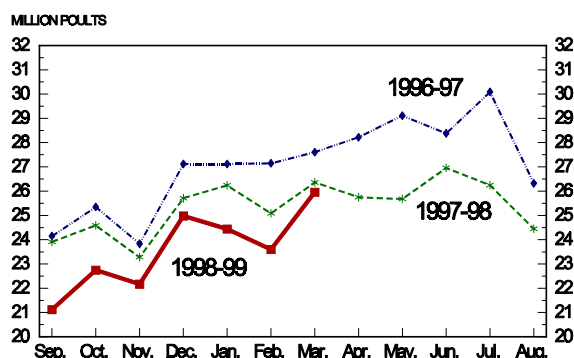
The 26.0 million poults placed during March 1999 in the United States were down 2 percent from the number placed during the same month a year ago. Placements were up 10 percent from the February total of 23.6 million. Regional changes from the previous year were as follows: East North Central, unchanged; West North Central, up 6 percent; North and South Atlantic, down 11 percent; South Central, down 2 percent; West, up 5 percent.

ALL TURKEYS

Geographic Division	Eggs in Incubators Apr. 1		1999 1998	Poults Placed during Mar. 1/		1999 1998
	1998	1999		1998	1999	
	Thousands	Percent		Thousands	Percent	
EN Central	5,015	5,263	105	3,543	3,546	100
W N Central	10,159	11,567	114	8,648	9,128	106
N & S Atlantic	11,001	9,834	89	8,816	7,857	89
S Central	3,478	3,474	100	2,851	2,789	98
West	3,692	3,941	107	2,504	2,639	105
U.S.	33,345	34,079	102	26,362	25,959	98

1/ Excludes exported poults.

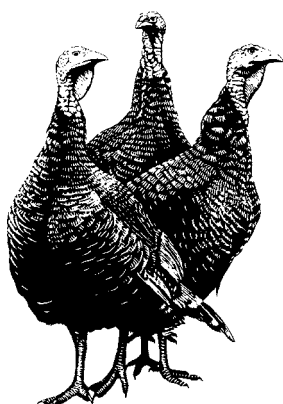
**TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS, UNITED STATES
SEPTEMBER THROUGH AUGUST, 1996-99**



TURKEY POULT PLACEMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES 1/

Month	Total All Breeds		98-99 97-98	Cumulative Total		98-99 97-98
	1997-98	1998-99		1997-98	1998-99	
	Thousands	Percent		Thousands	Percent	
Sept.	23,907	21,124	88	23,907	21,124	88
Oct.	24,587	22,749	93	48,494	43,873	90
Nov.	23,281	22,167	95	71,775	66,040	92
Dec.	25,711	24,985	97	97,486	91,025	93
Jan.	26,240	24,448	93	123,726	115,473	93
Feb.	25,093	23,604	94	148,819	139,077	93
Mar.	26,362	25,959	98	175,181	165,036	94
Apr.	25,747			200,928		
May	25,677			226,605		
June	26,957			253,562		
July	26,247			279,809		
Aug.	24,450			304,259		

1/ Excludes exported poults.



PACIFIC COAST AND UNITED STATES COLD STORAGE

Commodity	Unit	March 1998	February 1999 <u>a/</u>	March 1999	<u>Mar. 1999</u> Mar. 1998	<u>Mar. 1999</u> Feb. 1999
		Thousands			Percent	
PACIFIC COAST						
Turkeys	Lbs.	76,310	53,277	52,551	69	99
Chickens	Lbs.	38,891	37,653	47,304	122	126
Ducks	Lbs.	344	77	81	24	105
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	115,545	91,007	99,936	86	110
UNITED STATES						
Turkeys	Lbs.	527,020	375,916	373,765	71	99
Chickens	Lbs.	696,043	722,674	787,718	113	109
Ducks	Lbs.	3,423	4,548	5,868	171	129
Total Frozen Poultry Supplies	Lbs.	1,226,486	1,103,138	1,167,351	95	106
Eggs, Frozen	Lbs.	10,374	10,838	9,238	89	85

a/ Revised.